VZCZCXRO9541
OO RUEHDU RUEHMR RUEHRN
DE RUEHSB #0330 1071108
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 161108Z APR 08 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2782
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 1925
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 2048
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0611
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1325
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 1682
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 2104
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 4535
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUZEJAA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK
RHMFISS/EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1180
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 000330

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

AF/S FOR S. HILL
ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU
ADDIS ABABA FOR ACSS
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR E. LOKEN AND L. DOBBINS
STATE PASS TO NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR B. PITTMAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/16/2018
TAGS: PGOV PREL ZI
SUBJECT: TSVANGIRAI TO RETURN TO HARARE; ANNOUNCE ELECTION BOYCOTT

Classified By: Ambassador James D. McGee for reason 1.4 (d)

¶1. (C) MDC President Morgan Tsvangirai called the Ambassador on April 16 and said he was traveling to Lusaka today to meet with Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa. He planned to request that SADC replace South African President Thabo Mbeki with another chief mediator. He also intended to raise the issue of violence and the impossibility of holding a credible election with Mwanawasa. Finally, he intended to tell Mwanawasa that the government-controlled judicial system was incapable of making necessary rulings on the March 29 election.

¶2. (C) Tsvangirai said he intended to return to Harare this evening. He planned to make a detailed statement after returning on MDC intentions to boycott a runoff election because of the climate of violence. He did indicate to the Ambassador that he was willing to reconsider participation if the atmosphere significantly improved.

MCGEE